

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-74 (canceled)

75. (currently amended) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol in an amount that enhances milk component production;

protecting the sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant;

supplying the sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol to the abomasum of the ruminant; and
orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

76. (canceled)

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

78. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~76~~75 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

79. (currently amended) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed the comprises sorbitol, xylitol or glycerol, or any combination thereof;
and
protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from significant

alteration in the rumen of the ruminant;
supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the abomasum of
the ruminant, the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof in an
amount effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant;
and
orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

80. (canceled)

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

82. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~80~~79 wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

83. (previously presented) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof;
supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the abomasum of
the ruminant in an amount that supplies a nutritional effect to the ruminant,
supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the
abomasum of the ruminant comprising:
protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from significant
alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and

orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein protecting sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof, that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 83, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

87. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production includes enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the

ruminant.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

90. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

92-114 (canceled)

115. (previously amended) A method of enhancing milk component production in a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises sorbitol;

supplying the sorbitol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount effective to enhance milk component production, supplying the sorbitol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprising:

protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant, wherein protecting the sorbitol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

116. (previously presented) The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting

the sorbitol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

117. (previously presented) The method of claim 115, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

118. (previously presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

119. (previously presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

120. (previously presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

121. (previously presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

122. (previously presented) The method of claim 115 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

123-138 (canceled)

139. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
- providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol including sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol, or any of these in any combination; and
 - supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

140-141 (canceled)

142. (previously presented) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sorbitol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sorbitol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

143. (previously presented) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

144. (previously presented) The method of claim 139 wherein supplying the sorbitol, glycerol,

xylitol or any combination thereof to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sorbitol, glycerol, xylitol or any combination thereof, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

145. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

146. (previously presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

147. (previously presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

148. (previously presented) The method of claim 145 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

149-152 (canceled)

153. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant in an amount effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

154. (previously presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

155. (previously presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

156. (previously presented) The method of claim 153 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

157-160 (canceled)

161. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

162-163 (canceled)

164. (previously presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

165. (previously presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a

degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

166. (previously presented) The method of claim 161 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

167. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

168. (previously presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

169. (previously presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a

degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

170. (previously presented) The method of claim 167 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

171-174 (canceled)

175. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

176. (previously presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

177. (previously presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the

abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

178. (previously presented) The method of claim 175 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

179-182 (canceled)

183. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol being ruminally-protected; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

184-185 (canceled)

186. (previously presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree

that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

187. (previously presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

188. (previously presented) The method of claim 183 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

189. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

190. (previously presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree

that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

191. (previously presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

192. (previously presented) The method of claim 189 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

193-196 (canceled)

197. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

198. (previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the

abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

199. (previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

200. (previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

201-204 (canceled)

205. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

206-207 (canceled)

208. (previously presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

209. (previously presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

210. (previously presented) The method of claim 205 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

211. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by

the ruminant.

212. (previously presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

213. (previously presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

214. (previously presented) The method of claim 211 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

215-218 (canceled)

219. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

220. (previously presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

221. (previously presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

222. (previously presented) The method of claim 219 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

223-226 (canceled)

227. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising xylitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

228-229 (canceled)

230. (previously presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

231. (previously presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

232. (previously presented) The method of claim 227 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

233. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising sorbitol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

234. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

235. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

236. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

237. (canceled)

238. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

239. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

240. (previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

241. (previously presented) A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol being ruminally-protected and the sugar alcohol comprising glycerol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose fat, total

solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

242. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

243. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

244. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

245. (canceled)

246. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree

that allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

247. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

248. (previously presented) The method of claim 241 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises orally feeding the sugar alcohol to the ruminant, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

249. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

250. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

251. (canceled)

252. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

253. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.

254. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

255. (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.

256. (previously presented) The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

257. (previously presented) The method of claim 80, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

258-262 (canceled)